

In Memoriam Stephen Prickett (4th June, 1939 – 12th October, 2020)

We are very sorry to have to report the loss of another dear friend and Associate Editor, Professor Stephen Prickett. His Ph.D. at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, preceded a career that was as varied and colourful as he was. Having traversed the globe as a teacher and researcher, he returned to the United Kingdom to take up positions as Honorary Professor of English at the University of Kent at Canterbury and Regius Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Glasgow. He published widely, but is probably best known for his considerable contributions to wider engagement with biblical literature. His final book *Secret Selves: a history of our inner space* (published posthumously in 2021) is a testament to his depth and breadth as a thinker.

I first met Stephen at an International Tyndale Conference in Antwerp to celebrate the King James Bible in 2011. He immediately struck me as someone who was genuinely interested in new researchers. He was an inspiration to anyone who may have been feeling somewhat daunted by the other giants in the field who were all conference-hopping as international ambassadors for the King James Bible translation. I remember Professor David Norton was so busy in this regard that he could barely remember where he had just arrived from and where he was next expected.

During one such subsequent conference trip, I had the good fortune to be heading into the airport at the same time as Stephen. As we waited for our respective planes, we discussed our current projects and quickly realized that we were ‘on the same page’ and should probably be working on the same books. From that time onwards, Stephen and I would communicate about the progress we were making with our research ideas, from wherever we were in the world.

I was especially grateful to Stephen for always being willing to support new endeavours. He was an Associate Editor for both my *Humour in Literature and Culture* and *Oceans, Seas and Shorelines* series with Routledge, and when I started a new journal in Kazakhstan he was happy to be involved with that as well. I could always count on Stephen to give a clear

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and honest assessment of whatever I put in front of him. If I needed him to do something urgently, he would make time in his perpetually busy schedule to do it - and this was no exception as he embraced the knowledge of his imminent demise.

So I, personally, have many reasons to be saddened by his death. With his departure, I lost an inspiring friend, a colleague and an ally who understood the indescribable pressures that academics subject themselves to, as well as those increasingly inflicted on them. He was one of the most humane Humanities intellectuals I have ever met.